



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

August 15, 2005

## **FORMER IMAM OF LODI MOSQUE TO BE DEPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES**

SAN FRANCISCO – One week after an immigration judge ruled that he posed a threat to the community, the former head of the Lodi mosque returned to immigration court where he agreed to accept an order of removal to his native Pakistan.

At a brief hearing this afternoon, Shabbir Ahmed, 39, advised Immigration Judge Anthony Murry that he was abandoning his legal fight to remain in the United States and would return to Pakistan. Judge Murry issued the removal order at the conclusion of today's hearing.

"ICE is gratified by what happened in immigration court today," said San Francisco ICE chief counsel Ronald E. Le Fevre. "Once he leaves the United States, Mr. Ahmed will no longer be in a position to advance any doctrine of hate from within our community. Today we are one step closer to that goal."

Today's turn of events follows a custody hearing last week where attorneys for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presented evidence tying Ahmed to the Taliban and Al Qaeda. During that proceeding, ICE attorneys introduced a diagram showing the relationship between Ahmed and several other Lodi-area men who have been taken into custody as part of the ongoing investigation.

One of those individuals, Imam Mohammad Adil Khan, who was arrested on immigration violations, agreed last month to be removed to Pakistan. Two other men, Umer Hayat, and his son, Hamid Hayat, have been indicted on criminal charges in connection with the case.

According to testimony offered by an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hamid Hayat went to an Al Qaeda training camp in Pakistan where he was schooled on how to commit violent acts targeting Americans and American institutions. Upon returning to the United States, the FBI agent explained the younger Hayat was to await orders for his mission, orders that were to be relayed through Ahmed.

According to ICE attorneys, Ahmed's long-term goal was to establish a madrassah or religious school in Lodi similar to the madrassah in Rawalpindi, Pakistan where he and Mohammad Adil Khan previously worked. Evidence presented at last week's proceeding showed that this madrassah has been used to recruit individuals to engage in jihad.

Ahmed was arrested by ICE agents June 6 for violating the terms of his visa. ICE officials will begin making travel arrangements immediately for the cleric's return to Pakistan. Travel arrangements are also pending for Mohammad Adil Khan.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*